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PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

#27/E
3-23-03

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| Applicant | : | Tsuruo, et al. |) | Group Art Unit : 1631 |
| Appl. No. | : | 09/221,931 |) | |
| Filed | : | December 28, 1998 |) | |
| For | : | TELOMERASE INHIBITOR |) | |
| Examiner | : | Borin, M. |) | |

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PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

This is a Request for Continued Examination under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 for U.S. Application No. 09/221,931. In response to the final rejection of July 16, 2002, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to enter the following amendments and consider the following arguments.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel previous claims 11 and 17-25. Please add the following new claims 26-34.

Claim 26. (New) A method of inhibiting telomerase activity comprising a step of contacting cells exhibiting telomerase activity with a solution of a telomerase inhibitor comprising a catechin, wherein the concentration of the catechin in the solution is 15 μ M.

E1 Claim 27. (New) The method according to claim 26, wherein the telomerase inhibitor comprises a green tea extract.

Claim 28. (New) The method according to claim 26, wherein the catechin is epigallocatechin gallate, epigallocatechin, epicatechin gallate, or epicatechin.